

VENONA

~~TOP SECRET~~

USSR

Ref. No. : 3/SEP/TM685

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AGENT CIPHER, APPARENTLY FOR "TERNS"; PROBABLE REFERENCE TO
"ADMIRAL'S" CIPHER (1944).

From : MOSCOW

To : STOCKHOLM

No. : 938

13 Oct. 51

To AKAZTO[i].

For the agent ~~TERNS~~ [ii]

[10 groups unrecoverable][a]

[RE] the primary] encrypted text is in Russian using 28 letters and two punctuation marks. The same three digits that appear over the third, fourth and fifth letters of the keyword[b] are used as the digits beginners in the code table. To generate the key[c] the letters from the novel [KNIGA][d] are substituted

[11 groups unrecoverable][e]

and not by two as in the case of ~~ADMIRAL~~[iii]. The key starts at the first letter of the line from which the word is taken to generate the keyword.

The first indicator is added to the second group from the beginning and to the fourth group multiplied by seven[f]. It is put at the sixth position from

[65 groups unrecoverable]

send a practice telegram[g].

No. 11/22

LANOV[iv]

[Notes and Comments overleaf]

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3/NBP/T1685

Notes: [a] This gap probably contains some such phrase as "the cipher is made up on the principle of ADMIRAL's cipher;" cf. similar texts - MOSCOW's No. 223 of 25th March 1942 (3/NBP/T1687) and No. 939 of 13th October 1942 (3/NBP/T1686) - and note the mention of ADMIRAL later in the message.

[b] Presumably of the mononome-dinome table.

[c]

[d] ✓ ENIGA: literally "book"; "novel" is the cryptological term for a book of any description used for generating key.

[e] The general sense of this unrecoverable passage is probably "only by the single digits at the heads of the columns" (cf. MOSCOW's No. 223 of 25th March 1942 - 3/NBP/T1687).

[f] Presumably non-carrying multiplication.

[g] There is an indication that the beginning of this sentence may be "With the novel".

Comments: [i] AKASTO: Col. N. I. NIKITUSHOV, Soviet Military Attaché in STOCKHOLM.

[ii] BEENS: Unidentified cover-name. See also MOSCOW's No. 223 of 25th March 1942 (3/NBP/T1687).

[iii] ADMIRAL: Probably Vladimir Arsenievich STACHENSKIY, former Czarist naval attaché in STOCKHOLM.

[iv] LANOV: Col. BALTENKO of the Special Communications Division of the GRU.